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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 002556

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE/UK
NSC FOR BRADLEY

EO 12958 DECL: 10/07/2018
TAGS PREL, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS STEALS THE THUNDER FROM
THE TORY PARTY CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 2496

1. Summary and comment. (C) The Conservative Party's fall conference, which closed the UK political party conference season on October 1, ended
2. (C) Comment cont. Conservatives were pleased that their unified front contrasted starkly with Labour's conference the preceding week, which
Conservatives Worry About Over Confidence...at First

3. (C) The Conservatives gathered for their annual fall conference in Birmingham with high hopes. Under the banner slogan, "Plan for Change,"

4. (C) It all had started off so differently: on the first day of the conference, speeches to conference delegates as well as a succession of
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party's vice-chairman, Oliver Letwin MP, and the editor of the popular website "Conservative Home," Tim Montgomerie, told us that Osborne's tax

5. (C) By the second day of the conference, the mood had changed dramatically following events in Washington. David Cameron clearly needed to
Changing the Narrative and the Narrator

6. (C) In an adroit reaction to world events, Cameron succeeded in keeping the spotlight trained on his conference by giving an unplanned emergency
Tories Still Oppose 42 Day Detention Bill

7. (C) Outside the conference hall, Shadow Home Secretary Dominic Grieve was outspoken in his criticisms of the Government, and scornful of Gordon
Tories on Foreign Policy

8. (C) In further meetings on the margins of the conference hall, David Lidington, Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister for the Middle East, briefed
Cameron's Closing Speech

9. (C) The conference wound up with a keynote speech by Cameron that, in subsequent press reporting, was viewed as well-judged and providing a
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succeeded in the eyes of much of the press. Cameron may have faced criticism that his speech failed to lay out, in specifics, the party's plans
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LeBaron